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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1901.

THE CLEANSING OF THE CAPITOL.

We see it stated that the committee rooms at the Capitol, as well as the halls of the House and the Senate, have been cleaned up and put in order for the meeting of the Legislature next Wednesday.

We regret very much that this cleansing of the Capitol did not go far enough to provide for the ventilation of the rooms of the halls where our legislators will have to sit. We believe that every member of the Legislature who has sat in those rooms will say that they are painfully in need of ventilation, that the members have suffered for lack of these sanitary requirements, and there is no doubt that several members have lost their lives from sitting in the putrid atmosphere which is created by so many persons breathing the same air in unventilated rooms. The halls of legislation are simply sickening to persons in delicate health and are injurious even to the most robust.

It seems to be nobody's business to attend to this, and the average man, even though he be a Son of the State, pays no regard to the ordinary laws of health when it is a matter of fresh air. The Senate chamber, with all the windows shut and densely packed with Senators and auditors, is little better than the Black Hole of Calcutta, and the House of Delegates, under the same circumstances, is just as bad. We do not pretend to be able to solve the architectural problem involved, but it is one that has got to be solved, and if it could be done in no other way we would cut the Gordian knot by having one ventilation shaft built from the ceiling of the Senate chamber up and through the roof of the building, and two in the same way from the ceiling of the hall of the House of Delegates. But whether this is the right plan or not, it is certain that the members of our Legislature have suffered from the bad ventilation of the rooms in which they have been compelled to stay. We hope very much that they will take the matter up and make provision to have this serious and injurious defect remedied.

THE NEED OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Justice Crutcherfield is justifiable in demanding the attendance of the ambulance surgeons as witnesses in his court, but his lectures should be to the City Council, and not to the faithful young doctors who serve the city without compensation.

As between doing duty as witnesses in Judge Crutcherfield's Court and answering calls to the injured and suffering while court is in session, they yield to their generous impulses and go where they are most needed.

The fact is that a third physician is needed at the almshouse. Superintendent Davis has no two opinions on the subject. Dr. Trevilian and the Committee on Poor have recommended it, and the Council should act without delay.

MR. CLEVELAND A PRESSMIST.

The Hon. Grover Cleveland seems to have joined the ranks of the calamity howlers. His speech before the Holland Society in New York night before last, a synopsis of which appeared in yesterday's Times, is about as gloomy as any which has proceeded from the most pessimistic anti-imperialist in the land. Mr. Cleveland talks like a man who has outlived his day, and is living in the ancient past, who believes that only the old things are good and who thinks that modern progress means disaster. For our part, we believe that the republic is on stronger ground than ever before, and that our institutions are more thoroughly established than at any time since the republic began.

Mr. Cleveland says that our country will never be the same again. He is quite right. Our country will be broader and greater and grander as the years roll on. We have been living within ourselves and have been having life to do with the outside world, but we are now one of the powers of the earth; we have

broken out of the narrow confines of custom boundaries; we have taken a position in the world's affairs to which we are entitled, and we are going to meet all the obligations and responsibilities which that position carries with it. We have a work to do in the outside world, and we are going to do it like men.

Mr. Cleveland is horrified that Great Britain and the United States—these two English speaking nations, which, a little while ago, "assumed leadership in the path of peace and in advocacy of the abolition of war"—should now be waging war upon men "who are struggling for national life and independence."

But Mr. Cleveland did not have such a horror of war when in connection with the Venezuelan dispute he threw down the challenge to Great Britain, and did about everything that the President of the United States could do to provoke her to war. It was one of the most reckless things that any President ever did, and nothing but Great Britain's conservatism and forbearance, and friendly relations to this country saved these two English speaking nations from a long and disastrous war between themselves.

Mr. Cleveland's memory seems to be getting shorter in his old age.

LORD ROSEBERY'S SPEECH—AGAIN.

In commenting yesterday on Lord Rosebery's speech at the Wolverhampton banquet, we said that the trusts were only the symptom of the real course of America's successful rivalry with Great Britain in industry and trade. But the industrial combines to which Lord Rosebery referred are not to be ignored, for they are the instrumentalities which Americans have employed to put their talents and energies into action.

"The Americans and their vast and almost incalculable resources," said Lord Rosebery, "their acuteness and enterprise and their huge population, which will probably be 100,000,000 in twenty years, together with the plan which they have adopted for putting accumulated wealth into great co-operated syndicates or trusts, for the purpose of carrying on this great commercial warfare, are, perhaps, the most formidable. The Americans, scarcely satisfied with gigantic individual fortunes, use these by combination to make of capital and power which, wielded by one or two minds, is almost irresistible; and if this power is concentrated against Great Britain in trade warfare, it will be a danger we cannot afford to disregard. A trust of many millions might compete with any trade in England, underselling all its products at a considerable loss. This is a possible outcome of the immediate future."

Lord Rosebery's observations emphasize the fact which The Times has so often pointed out—that the much-abused trusts have been the great factors in extending our foreign trade. For one thing, they have by combination and co-operation made such economies as to enable them to reduce the cost of production to the minimum and to make the best article at the lowest price. They are thus enabled to sell their products in the markets of the world in competition with foreign manufacturers. But this is not all. With their large capital and their vast resources they are able to send their representatives into foreign markets to make investigation as to what sort of goods are required in this market and that, and to introduce and sell the goods when they have been made. It was by pursuing a policy of this character that the American Tobacco Company was able to introduce its goods into Japan and other Eastern markets. The company was able to spend thousands of dollars in this work, but manifestly a small manufacturer could not have afforded to do so. Destroy the great industrial combinations in this country and go back to the old system of individual shops which prevailed several years ago, and we would greatly impair our foreign trade, if we did not, indeed, destroy it.

It is not popular, we know, to say anything good about the trusts. They are unpopular, although their goods are very popular at home as well as abroad, and the newspaper that abuses the trust and talks about the iniquity of organized wealth and all that, strikes a popular chord. But all this has nothing to do with the fact. For several years The Times has been closely studying this subject and has been presenting the facts about trusts as they have appeared to it, and the speech of Lord Rosebery, from which we have quoted above, and the editorials of certain Vienna newspapers, from which we quoted the other day, go very far to show that The Times has at least been very near to the truth in the view which it has presented. The mere fact that Americans, who are the best manufacturers and the best traders in the world, have adopted the industrial combine, is conclusive that it is the best trade device of the age.

A GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY.

In response to a query from the Richmond Dispatch as to whether or not he was in favor of going into general legislation a gubernatorial primary bill, to be voted on at the same time that the constitutional delegates are elected, would bring out all the voters and insure Democratic success, besides settling the momentary question of the party nominee without the slightest factional strife or corruption, and without the necessary expenditure of a single dollar by the candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Attorney-General in the respective parties, and without costing the State a dollar. At the same time it will give to every voter a chance to be heard in his party as to whom he desires to be nominated for party for these high honors. Other States have gubernatorial primaries, and they give great satisfaction. Was there ever a better time to inaugurate it in Virginia than now? Will any one say it will not bring out the people and insure the election of the best men to the Constitutional Convention? Who will say that this is not a better method than "ward meetings" and "county conventions," with "cut and dried states," to ascertain the will of the majority in the parties as to who shall be nominated for the honors? Give the people an opportunity to have a voice in this matter, and they will love the Democratic party more and serve it better.

This is a timely suggestion and meets with our hearty approval. The Democratic nomination for Governor in this State is equivalent to an election, and all the voters of the Democratic party should

have the opportunity to go to the polls and express their choice between candidates. There can be no free and full expression of the views of the voters in ward meetings and cross-roads conventions. Many voters will not attend such meetings for reasons sufficient to themselves. When it is a simple choice between two persons a voter frequently feels a delicacy in publicly expressing himself. He may be on the most friendly terms with two or more of the candidates, and it is distasteful to him to put himself, in a public meeting, in the attitude of favoring one and antagonizing the others. Such a voter is very apt to stay at home when the local meeting to choose delegates to the State Convention is held. More than this, Mr. Folkes well says that the action of these local meetings is usually "cut and dried," and more often than otherwise it utterly fails to express the dominant sentiment of the community.

How simple it would be to avoid all this by having a gubernatorial primary, in which every Democrat might by ballot express his choice of candidates without proclaiming his preference from the house top. A regular election is to be held this year to choose delegates to the Constitutional Convention, the expense of which is to be paid by the Government, and it will cost no more, or at any rate but very little more, to have also at the same time a primary election for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Attorney-General. It is a most excellent device to give the Democrats of this State the opportunity of saying whom they want for these offices, and we can see no possible objection to the plan on the part of those who want the most popular man to win. We sincerely hope that Mr. Folkes' plan will be adopted.

Dr. Oster says that Senator Glass is "bound constitutionally." We know that before the doctor diagnosed his case, and that is why Mr. Glass' friends want him in the Constitutional Convention.

CURRENT TOPICS.

In commenting on Lord Rosebery's address at Wolverhampton on the industrial rivalry of the United States and Germany, the New York Evening Sun says:

"Lord Rosebery's advice has an application in the case of German competition, but it is difficult to see what relevancy it has to that of the United States, whose great combinations of capital, according to him, threaten to undersell England in her own market. The remedy would seem to be to fight the United States with their own weapons. But Lord Rosebery intimates that the rich Englishman prefers to retire from business and amuse himself. Well, he must stay in harness, or let the American capitalist have the rail. As regards German competition Englishmen have lost a great deal of ground by taking things too easy. Technical education in Germany is both thorough and widespread, and the young German business men are, besides, very good linguists. Thus they are much better equipped than the Englishmen to enter the struggle. They spend but little time in sport and in travel for the sake of pleasure. In short, they take life much more seriously and understand the value of time better. In his methods the German may seem slow and cautious, but his pace is steady and he keeps his goal in view always. The English manufacturer, merchant and trader have a good deal to learn from their German rivals. Lord Rosebery failed to mention one serious handicap which England labors under, and that is the want of a railway, but his pace is steady and he keeps his goal in view always. The English manufacturer, merchant and trader have a good deal to learn from their German rivals. Lord Rosebery failed to mention one serious handicap which England labors under, and that is the want of a railway, but his pace is steady and he keeps his goal in view always. The English manufacturer, merchant and trader have a good deal to learn from their German rivals. Lord Rosebery failed to mention one serious handicap which England labors under, and that is the want of a railway, but his pace is steady and he keeps his goal in view always. 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